



LOUISIANA



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Ulysses Williams, Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 44094

DECEMBER 1983

RELEASE DATE:
January 20, 1984

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1983				REVISED NOVEMBER 1983				REVISED DECEMBER 1982			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,899.0	1,707.9	191.1	10.1	1,924.9	1,716.0	208.9	10.9	1,855.0	1,639.6	215.4	11.6
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	76.7	69.1	7.6	9.9	77.9	70.2	7.7	9.9	74.1	65.0	9.1	12.3
Baton Rouge 2/	243.6	223.9	19.7	8.1	244.9	222.9	22.0	9.0	232.5	210.1	22.4	9.6
Lafayette 3/	102.8	96.0	6.8	6.6	103.3	95.5	7.8	7.6	101.2	94.8	6.4	6.3
Lake Charles 4/	75.4	64.6	10.8	14.3	77.0	65.4	11.6	15.1	74.3	63.4	10.9	14.7
Monroe 5/	58.2	52.5	5.7	9.9	58.4	52.3	6.1	10.6	58.3	51.3	7.0	12.0
New Orleans 6/	525.9	478.9	47.0	8.9	530.5	478.4	52.1	9.8	513.4	462.0	51.4	10.0
Shreveport 7/	167.2	151.0	16.2	9.7	168.8	151.1	17.7	10.5	163.2	142.9	20.3	12.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during December stood at 1,594,800, a decrease of 2,300 workers from last month's figure and 12,300 fewer than December of last year. The increase in nonmanufacturing payrolls was led by trade due to seasonal adjustments in retail trade establishments as the holiday season reached a peak. In durable goods, decreases in transportation equipment payrolls and in nondurable goods, the seasonal decline in food and kindred products were both significant in the downturn of Louisiana's manufacturing employment.

1/ Includes Avoyelles, Grant, & Rapides parishes. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Lafayette Parish only. 4/ Calcasieu Parish only. 5/ Ouachita Parish only. 6/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. 7/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 88,300 for December, was 800 lower than the November level of 89,100 and 4,200 below the year ago figure. A drop in the production of household furniture was primarily responsible for the decrease in furniture and fixtures employment. Stone, clay and glass products employment was lower due to lessened demand for concrete, gypsum and plaster products and for certain miscellaneous nonmetallic mineral products. Fabricated metal products payrolls were up as a result of increased demand for fabricated structural metal products and certain miscellaneous fabricated metal products. Increased production of construction and related machinery and miscellaneous machinery, except electrical, accounted for the upturn in machinery, except electrical, employment. Transportation equipment payrolls were significantly lower in December due to decreased activity in the ship and boat building and repairing segment.

Estimated employment in nondurable goods for December was 1,900 lower than in the prior month. Most of the decrease was due to a seasonal decline in the fruit and vegetable canning industry. More business for paper mills, except building paper, and for establishments manufacturing miscellaneous converted paper products moved employment up slightly in paper and allied products. Less business throughout the chemicals and allied products industry, especially industrial organic chemicals, resulted in lower employment levels in this segment. Petroleum and coal products employment was down from last month due to a slowdown in petroleum refining activity. Other nondurable goods payrolls were cut from November's level as textile mills products experienced decreased activity.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during December was 1,404,500, up by 400 from the November figure. Mining employment was higher this month as a result of increased production of crude petroleum and natural gas. A downturn in general building construction and heavy construction accounted for the decrease in construction payrolls. Transportation and public utilities suffered a decrease in employment level largely due to a slowdown in business for the state's ports and cutbacks in the communication industry. Following the pattern of previous years, trade employment rose as a result of increased hiring at general merchandise, apparel and accessories stores for the holiday season. An increase in banking payrolls was instrumental in the higher level of employment exhibited by the finance, insurance and real estate segment of nonmanufacturing. Less business at hotels and other lodging places contributed to the drop in services employment for the current month. A reduction in the number of part time workers in state education was a prime factor in the December decrease of government employment.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 134,500 production workers in manufacturing increased from \$383.72 in November to \$394.18 in December, an increase of \$10.46, but a decrease of \$7.20 from the December a year ago level. Average hourly earnings were \$0.14 higher in December than last month and \$0.43 more than December of last year. Weekly hours averaged 40.1 for the current month, up by 0.5 hours from 39.6 hours in November.

Total unemployment in Louisiana, estimated at 191,100 for December, was down by 17,800 from November's level of 208,900 and 24,300 lower than December of last year. The unemployment rate for December was 10.1 percent, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points below November's rate and 1.5 percentage points below December a year ago. The comparable national unemployment rate for December was 8.0 percent compared to 8.1 percent in November and 10.5 percent in December of last year. Louisiana's civilian labor force decreased from 1,924,900 in November to 1,899,000 in December, a loss of 25,900. Total employment, at 1,707,900, was 8,100 lower than last month but 68,300 higher than December a year ago.

Louisiana's unemployment rate is expected to increase over the next 30 to 60 day period. Retail trade will probably adjust downward as a result of the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will likely suffer from the effects of severe winter weather.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1981*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change from	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	1,594.6	1,597.1	1,607.1	- 2.3	-12.3
MINING AND QUARRYING	92.2	91.6	95.2	+ 0.6	- 3.0
Oil and Gas Extraction	88.9	88.3	91.8	+ 0.6	- 2.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	113.5	115.0	118.9	- 1.5	- 5.4
MANUFACTURING	190.3	193.0	199.0	- 2.7	- 8.7
Durable Goods	88.3	89.1	92.5	- 0.8	- 4.2
Lumber and Wood Products	13.5	13.5	12.8	0	+ 0.7
Furniture and Fixtures	0.7	0.8	0.7	- 0.1	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.7	7.9	7.8	- 0.2	- 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.4	4.5	0	- 1.1
Fabricated Metal Products	16.4	16.3	16.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	12.0	11.9	13.4	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Electric & Electronic Equipment	8.2	8.2	8.4	0	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	24.2	24.9	26.3	- 0.7	- 2.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	102.0	103.9	106.5	- 1.9	- 4.5
Food & Kindred Products	25.2	26.7	26.6	- 1.5	- 1.4
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.4	8.4	8.4	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	12.0	11.9	12.0	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	9.8	9.8	9.8	0	0
Chemicals & Allied Products	30.1	30.3	32.5	- 0.2	- 2.4
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.5	12.7	13.1	- 0.2	- 0.6
Petroleum Refining	11.8	12.0	12.3	- 0.2	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.0	4.1	4.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	122.0	123.9	127.1	- 1.9	- 5.1
Railroad Transportation	8.0	8.0	8.2	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	74.9	75.9	76.9	- 1.0	- 2.0
Communications & Public Utilities	39.1	40.0	42.0	- 0.9	- 2.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	374.6	370.9	372.2	+ 3.7	+ 2.4
Wholesale Trade	100.1	99.6	101.0	+ 0.5	- 0.9
Retail Trade	274.5	271.3	271.2	+ 3.2	+ 3.3
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	64.9	61.5	63.4	+ 3.4	+ 1.5
Food Stores	46.6	47.3	47.9	- 0.7	- 1.3
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.0	31.0	30.5	0	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	81.8	81.9	78.8	- 0.1	+ 3.0
Other Retail Trade	50.2	49.6	50.6	+ 0.6	- 0.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	80.3	80.1	79.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Banking	26.1	25.9	26.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
SERVICES	307.1	307.3	304.9	- 0.2	+ 2.2
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.3	21.5	20.9	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Other Services	285.8	285.8	284.0	0	+ 1.8
GOVERNMENT	314.8	315.3	310.3	- 0.5	+ 4.5
Federal	34.3	34.1	33.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
State and Local	280.5	281.2	276.5	- 0.7	+ 4.0
State	102.1	103.0	101.6	- 0.9	+ 0.5
Local	178.4	178.2	174.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.5

* Preliminary

**Revised

(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries

(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**		Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**		Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	
		Dec. '82**	Nov. '82**		Dec. '82**	Nov. '82**		Dec. '82**	Nov. '82**
11 MANUFACTURING (1)									
Durable Goods	\$394.18	\$383.72	\$401.38	40.1	39.6	42.7	\$9.83	\$9.69	\$9.40
Lumber & Wood Products	349.32	335.78	377.74	38.9	38.2	42.3	8.98	8.79	8.93
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	278.39	281.08	266.90	39.1	39.7	39.6	7.12	7.08	6.74
Fabricated Metal Products	350.88	357.85	335.55	43.0	42.5	39.2	8.16	8.42	8.56
Machinery, ex. Electrical	361.77	367.46	401.86	38.9	39.3	41.6	9.30	9.35	9.66
Electric & Electronic Equip.	329.73	279.06	369.21	36.8	32.6	39.7	8.96	8.56	9.30
Transportation Equipment	375.36	343.42	393.20	39.1	38.2	40.0	9.60	8.99	9.83
	397.55	376.16	406.95	39.4	38.7	43.9	10.09	9.72	9.27
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products	439.43	431.96	423.98	41.3	41.1	43.0	10.64	10.51	9.86
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	259.29	268.09	263.91	38.7	41.5	41.3	6.70	6.46	6.39
Paper & Allied Products	188.00	187.40	167.66	37.6	32.2	38.9	5.00	5.82	4.31
Printing & Publishing	539.74	558.95	499.68	42.2	43.6	43.3	12.79	12.82	11.54
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	348.25	355.42	301.68	39.8	40.9	36.0	8.75	8.69	8.38
Petroleum & Coal Products	619.40	599.23	604.15	42.6	41.7	43.0	14.54	14.37	14.05
Petroleum Refining	615.02	574.25	569.16	46.0	42.6	45.9	13.37	13.48	12.40
	628.82	583.63	590.79	46.0	42.2	46.3	13.67	13.83	12.76
MINING									
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	516.36	511.68	446.18	47.9	46.9	43.7	10.78	10.91	10.21
BANKING	484.88	500.71	455.12	42.2	41.9	39.1	11.49	11.95	11.64
	223.88	222.34	222.12	38.8	38.4	38.9	5.77	5.79	5.71

1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 134,500 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 112,700 supervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1983

REVISED NOVEMBER 1983

	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Empl.</u>	<u>Unemp.</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Empl.</u>	<u>Unemp.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Crowley (Acadia)	23,775	20,925	2,850	12.0	24,600	21,275	3,325	13.6
Oakdale (Allen)	6,050	4,750	1,300	21.3	6,300	4,875	1,425	22.7
Napoleonville (Assumption)	10,525	9,125	1,400	13.4	10,775	9,325	1,450	13.4
DeRidder (Beauregard)	11,300	9,900	1,400	12.4	11,375	9,875	1,500	13.3
Arcadia (Bienville)	6,750	6,100	650	9.7	6,850	6,150	700	10.4
Columbia (Caldwell)	4,525	3,950	575	12.4	4,575	4,025	550	12.1
Cameron (Cameron)	4,725	4,250	475	10.2	4,800	4,325	475	10.1
Jonesville (Catahoula)	6,575	5,900	675	10.3	6,700	6,050	650	9.6
Homer (Claiborne)	7,225	6,625	600	8.1	7,325	6,675	650	8.8
Ferriday (Concordia)	8,825	7,700	1,125	12.8	8,875	7,825	1,050	11.8
Mansfield (DeSoto)	10,650	9,600	1,050	9.9	10,725	9,625	1,100	10.2
Lake Providence (E.Carroll)	4,225	3,475	750	17.8	4,325	3,700	625	14.5
Clinton (East Feliciana)	7,625	6,950	675	8.8	7,750	7,000	750	9.7
Ville Platte (Evangeline)	13,300	11,375	1,925	14.5	14,075	11,950	2,125	15.2
Winnsboro (Franklin)	8,900	7,525	1,375	15.5	9,100	7,725	1,375	15.2
New Iberia (Iberia)	39,125	34,525	4,600	11.8	39,875	34,775	5,100	12.8
Plaquemine (Iberville)	14,900	13,300	1,600	10.8	15,300	13,575	1,725	11.3
Jonesboro (Jackson)	6,250	5,725	525	8.2	6,350	5,775	575	9.0
Jennings (Jefferson Davis)	13,300	11,325	1,975	14.8	13,900	11,600	2,300	16.6
Thibodaux (Lafourche)	40,400	36,250	4,150	10.2	40,975	36,625	4,350	10.6
Jena (LaSalle)	5,800	5,275	525	9.3	5,825	5,250	575	9.9
Ruston (Lincoln)	20,775	19,550	1,225	5.9	20,800	19,675	1,125	5.5
Tallulah (Madison)	4,750	4,075	675	14.0	4,775	4,250	525	11.3
Bastrop (Morehouse)	12,400	10,825	1,575	12.7	12,550	11,075	1,475	11.7
Natchitoches (Natchitoches)	16,350	14,800	1,550	9.4	16,450	14,925	1,525	9.2
Point-a-la-Hache (Plaquem.)	14,625	13,550	1,075	7.3	15,175	13,725	1,450	7.7
New Roads (Pointe Coupee)	12,075	10,725	1,350	11.2	12,375	10,925	1,450	11.7
Coushatta (Red-River)	3,825	3,475	350	9.1	3,900	3,525	375	9.4
Rayville (Richland)	7,450	6,425	1,025	13.8	7,525	6,550	975	13.0
Many (Sabine)	7,725	6,975	750	9.8	7,750	6,950	800	10.3
Norco (St. Charles)	23,575	21,550	2,025	8.6	24,150	21,875	2,275	9.4
Greensburg (St. Helena)	4,000	3,600	400	9.8	4,050	3,625	425	10.6
Lutcher (St. James)	8,025	6,975	1,050	13.2	8,250	7,100	1,150	13.9
Reserve (St. John)	17,375	15,475	1,900	10.9	17,800	15,525	2,275	12.8
Opelousas (St. Landry)	34,600	28,900	5,700	16.5	35,575	29,275	6,300	17.7
St. Martinville (St. Martin)	19,275	16,650	2,625	13.7	19,750	17,000	2,750	14.0
Morgan City (St. Mary)	34,125	29,600	4,525	13.3	35,325	30,200	5,125	14.5
Hammond (Tangipahoa)	32,850	27,825	5,025	15.3	33,800	28,225	5,575	16.5
St. Joseph (Tensas)	2,775	2,400	375	13.6	2,875	2,550	325	11.4
Houma (Terrebonne)	48,350	43,275	5,075	10.5	49,475	43,625	5,850	11.8
Farmerville (Union)	7,175	6,350	825	11.6	7,225	6,375	850	11.7
Abbeville (Vermilion)	24,100	21,400	2,700	11.2	25,125	22,025	3,100	12.3
Leesville (Vernon)	11,375	9,875	1,500	13.1	11,550	9,875	1,675	14.4
Bogalusa (Washington)	14,150	12,050	2,100	14.9	14,525	12,150	2,375	16.4
Oak Grove (West Carroll)	3,950	3,200	750	18.9	4,100	3,375	725	17.7
St. Francisville (W.Felic.)	3,200	2,950	250	7.8	3,225	2,950	275	8.7
Winnfield (Winn)	5,575	4,875	700	12.5	5,625	4,850	775	13.6

Note: Labor Market Areas are designated by name of principal Town, but include all of parish in parenthesis.

Above data rounded to nearest 25 except LMA's and Statewide which are rounded to nearest 100.
Subtotals may not add to totals due to rounding. Rates computed from unrounded data.

ALEXANDRIA AREA (1)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE					
AND SALARIED WORKERS	55.3	55.7	54.5	- 0.4	+ 0.8
MANUFACTURING	5.4	5.8	5.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Nondurable Goods	2.4	2.8	2.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	1.0	0.6	- 0.4	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	49.9	49.9	49.2	0	+ 0.7
Construction	3.6	3.7	3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.8	12.7	12.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.0	9.9	9.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.2	2.1	2.2	+ 0.1	0
Auto Dirs. & Svc. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Other Retail Trade	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
Services & Mining	11.9	11.9	11.6	0	+ 0.3
Health Services	5.3	5.3	5.1	0	+ 0.2
Other Services & Mining	6.6	6.6	6.5	0	+ 0.1
Government	16.1	16.1	16.0	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
State	5.9	5.9	5.8	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.4	7.4	7.4	0	0

- (1) Geographic coverage of data now published for this area differs from the standard definition. Data also includes Avoyelles Parish.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria Labor Market Area decreased to 55,300. This was a loss of 400 from the previous month, but an overall gain of 800 from this month a year ago. This month's loss was in manufacturing.

Manufacturing employment declined by 400 in December to 5,400. The loss was in food and kindred products and were seasonal reductions at a local food processing plant. Since December a year ago, manufacturing employment has had an overall increase of 100.

Employment in nonmanufacturing remained unchanged since last month and is estimated to be 49,900. There were some minor losses in construction, but there was a minor gain in retail trade. Compared to this month a year ago, nonmanufacturing employment has increased 700 with increases in each major segment except finance, insurance and real estate and transportation, communication, and utilities.

During the next thirty days total employment should decrease due to adverse weather conditions and the close of the holiday season. Due to the same reasons we should have an increase in the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	213.3	212.1	209.8	+ 1.2	+ 3.5
MANUFACTURING	24.3	24.4	25.2	- 0.1	- 0.9
Durable Goods	4.8	4.7	4.8	+ 0.1	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	1.5	1.4	1.5	+ 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	19.5	19.7	20.4	- 0.2	- 0.9
Food & Kindred Products	2.8	2.8	2.5	0	+ 0.3
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	13.5	13.7	14.7	- 0.2	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	189.0	187.7	184.6	+ 1.3	+ 4.4
Mining	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Construction	22.1	21.5	21.8	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
Transportation and Public Utilities	10.1	10.1	10.5	0	- 0.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	50.5	50.0	48.1	+ 0.5	+ 2.4
Wholesale Trade	11.7	11.8	11.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	38.8	38.2	36.5	+ 0.6	+ 2.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	12.1	11.9	12.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Services	39.0	38.6	37.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Government	53.7	54.1	53.2	- 0.4	+ 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	\$484.55	\$470.11	\$482.03	41.7	42.2	43.0	\$11.62	\$11.14	\$11.21
Petro-Chemicals	639.04	618.19	605.25	43.8	42.9	44.9	14.59	14.41	13.48

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 15,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA was estimated at 213,300 during December, up 1,200 from November's revised estimate of 212,100 and up 3,500 over the total for last December. Manufacturing employment dropped 100 while nonmanufacturing was up 1,300 during the current period.

Employment in manufacturing totaled 24,300 in December, down 100 from the November revised estimate of 24,400. Durable goods at 4,800, increased 100 during the current period due to more business in fabricated structural metal products. Nondurable goods at 19,500, were down 200 due to the closing of a unit in a plant manufacturing industrial organic chemicals and less business in industrial inorganic chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 189,000 was up 1,300 during December and up 4,400 over December of last year. Mining employment and transportation and public utilities remained stable during the current period. Construction improved due to more activity in general building contractors- non residential buildings and in heavy construction, except highway and street construction. Wholesale trade was down due to less business in chemicals and allied products. Retail trade improved due to increased business in all retail sales industries except eating and drinking places. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment increased due to more business in commercial and stock savings banks. Employment in service industries increased due to more business in photographic studios, portrait, advertising, miscellaneous business services, and in miscellaneous repair shops and related services. Government employment was down due to a drop in the number of part time workers in colleges, universities, professional schools, and junior colleges.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 223,900 during December, up 1,000 over November's revised estimate of 222,900. Unemployment at 19,700 in December was down 2,300 from last month's revised estimate and down 2,700 from December of last year. December's unemployment rate at 8.1 percent is down from the revised 9.0 percent for last month. The local civilian labor force totaled 243,600 during December, down 1,300 from November's total and up 11,100 over the total for last December.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 15,700 production workers in all manufacturing industries was \$484.55 in December, up \$14.44 from November revised average. Average weekly hours were down 0.5 hours, and average hourly earnings were up \$0.48. Longer scheduled workweek and more overtime worked at premium pay in the petro-chemical industries produced these changes.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 1,800 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 310 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for November, 1983 for all urban consumers was 303.1 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 301.4 using base period 1967=100.

Unemployment and the unemployment rate expected to increase during the coming month due to seasonal changes.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	96.3	95.6	100.7	+ 0.7	- 4.4
MANUFACTURING	5.1	5.1	5.2	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	3.0	2.9	3.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.2	2.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	91.2	90.5	95.5	+ 0.7	- 4.3
Mining	17.7	17.1	19.7	+ 0.6	- 2.0
Construction	6.1	6.1	6.8	0	- 0.7
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	7.9	7.8	7.9	+ 0.1	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	24.5	24.3	25.2	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.7	7.8	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	16.8	16.6	17.4	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Food Stores	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.7	1.8	1.7	- 0.1	0
Other Retail Trade	9.8	9.5	10.3	+ 0.3	- 0.5
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	+ 0.2
Services	20.1	20.1	21.2	0	- 1.1
Government	11.1	11.3	11.1	- 0.2	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during December stood at 96,300, an increase of 700 from the previous month and 4,400 below the comparable figure a year ago.

The increase in nonmanufacturing was responsible for the increase in nonagricultural employment. Employment gains in mining was responsible for the increase in nonmanufacturing. The increase was 600 over the previous month.

Manufacturing remained the same over the previous month but decreased 100 over the same period of time a year ago.

The wholesale and retail trade showed an increase as a result of the Christmas seasonal hiring. This should decrease after the first of the year.

Other areas remained relatively stable and reflected little increase or decrease over the previous month.

The unemployment rate should rise over the next thirty days as a result of the adverse weather conditions which restrict construction and other employment which is conducted outdoors. The slowdown in drilling activities in the oil industry and related services will also be a contributing factor in the unemployment rate rise.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE					
AND SALARIED WORKERS	59.7	60.2	62.0	- 0.5	- 2.3
MANUFACTURING	9.5	9.7	10.5	- 0.2	- 1.0
Durable Goods	0.9	0.9	1.2	0	- 0.3
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.8	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	8.6	8.8	9.3	- 0.2	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.8	7.9	8.5	- 0.1	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.5	0.4	- 0.1	0
NONMANUFACTURING	50.2	50.5	51.5	- 0.3	- 1.3
Mining	2.4	2.4	2.3	0	+ 0.1
Construction	3.7	3.8	4.9	- 0.1	- 1.2
Trans., Comm. & Pub. & Utilities	4.8	4.9	4.6	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	15.0	15.1	15.5	- 0.1	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	12.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.8	2.6	2.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Auto Dirs. & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
Services	11.0	11.0	10.6	0	+ 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Government	10.2	10.2	10.6	0	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment fell 500 from mid-November as a result of declines in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. The current estimate falls 2,300 below the year ago level. This loss was equally shared by the above major industry groups.

Employment on manufacturing payrolls dipped 200 below the November level and all of this loss occurred in the petroleum and chemical establishments. During the twelve month period from December 1982 factory employment fell 1,000 and 700 of this was in petroleum chemicals. The remainder occurred in other durable goods.

The nonfactory job loss totalled 300 from mid-November. Construction, transportation & public utilities, and trade each declined by 100. Trade, which usually expands in December as a result of the holiday shopping, declined due to a labor dispute involving in excess of 250 workers. Over-the-year losses totalled 1,300 jobs. The greater part of this loss occurred in construction.

Employment may continue to edge downward and unemployment may climb slightly during January.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE					
AND SALARIED WORKERS	51.0	50.6	51.8	+ 0.4	- 0.8
MANUFACTURING	7.4	7.4	7.1	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	2.7	2.7	2.4	0	+ 0.3
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.3	0.2	- 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods	2.5	2.4	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	- 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	43.6	43.2	44.7	+ 0.4	- 1.1
Mining	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Construction	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	2.7	2.8	2.7	- 0.1	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.1	13.8	13.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	4.0	3.9	4.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.1	9.9	9.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	2.7	2.9	+ 0.2	0
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	4.0	4.0	3.9	0	+ 0.1
Services	9.8	9.7	9.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.1	4.2	4.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Government	8.9	8.8	10.5	+ 0.1	- 1.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment was estimated at 51,000, a gain of 400 from the revised November estimate of 50,600.

Manufacturing was unchanged over the month, but 300 more than December 1982.

Nonmanufacturing estimated at 43,600 was 400 above the November estimate. The only loss was in transportation and public utilities. Wholesale and retail trade experienced the largest gain, 300, as the holiday season peaked. Other gains were in services and government, 100 each. All other segments were unchanged.

The outlook over the next thirty days is for employment to decline as the holiday season ends and inclement weather curtails outside activity. Unemployment will increase for the same reasons.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From	
				Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	508.5	507.7	513.7	+ 0.8	- 5.2
MANUFACTURING	42.7	43.3	46.4	- 0.6	- 3.7
Durable Goods	24.7	25.3	27.6	- 0.6	- 2.9
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	3.3	3.4	3.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Transportation Equipment	13.4	13.9	15.4	- 0.5	- 2.0
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.7	9.2	11.4	- 0.5	- 2.7
Other Durable Goods	1.5	1.5	2.2	0	- 0.7
Nondurable Goods	18.0	18.0	18.8	0	- 0.8
Food & Kindred Products	7.4	7.4	7.9	0	- 0.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.3	2.3	2.4	0	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	465.8	464.4	467.3	+ 1.4	- 1.5
Mining	20.9	20.8	20.9	+ 0.1	0
Construction	31.7	32.2	31.1	- 0.5	+ 0.6
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	47.4	47.7	49.1	- 0.3	- 1.7
Railroad Transportation	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	17.2	17.4	17.6	- 0.2	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	130.2	128.8	129.3	+ 1.4	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	33.2	33.1	35.1	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Retail Trade	97.0	95.7	94.2	+ 1.3	+ 2.8
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	30.8	30.8	31.1	0	- 0.3
Services	124.0	123.9	125.9	+ 0.1	- 1.9
Government	80.8	80.2	79.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Federal	15.0	14.9	15.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
State	19.7	19.5	20.5	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Local	46.1	45.8	44.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.9

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**
ALL MANUFACTURING	\$363.78	\$359.58	\$363.80	38.7	39.0	40.7	\$9.40	\$9.22	\$9.43
Durable Goods	389.82	381.75	412.10	39.9	40.1	41.5	9.77	9.52	9.9
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pmts.	373.66	372.19	315.65	42.9	41.4	38.4	8.71	8.99	8.22
Fabricated Metal Products	410.94	416.00	421.73	39.1	40.0	36.8	10.51	10.40	11.46
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	384.00	350.43	414.30	38.4	37.6	44.5	10.00	9.32	9.31
Nondurable Goods	325.09	326.38	336.02	36.9	37.3	39.3	8.81	8.75	8.55
Food & Kindred Products	263.90	267.90	257.72	36.4	36.8	37.9	7.25	7.28	6.80
Apparel & Other Textile Pmts.	133.64	132.14	137.94	29.5	29.3	33.0	4.53	4.51	4.18
Paper & Allied Products	404.20	358.99	385.85	46.3	43.2	44.3	8.73	8.31	8.71
Printing & Publishing	306.49	328.95	310.34	36.1	38.7	37.8	8.49	8.50	8.21
Chemicals & Allied Pmts.	545.42	553.22	748.52	38.6	39.8	48.7	14.13	13.90	15.37

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 28,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans Labor Market Area in December moved up to 508,500, a level of 800 above November. The normal seasonal upturn in retail trade dominated changes as shopping for the holiday season neared its peak. Less favorably, manufacturing was hurt by a decrease in ship and boatbuilding and repairing. Since December of last year, nonagricultural wage and salary employment is down by 5,200.

Total manufacturing employment was 42,700 in December, down 600 from last month. Ship and boatbuilding and repairing dropped to 8,700 from 9,200 last month and 11,400 one year ago. Employment in manufacturing is down 2,900 from last year's December total.

Nonmanufacturing changes were highlighted by seasonal gains in retail trade, mostly in general merchandise stores, apparel stores, miscellaneous stores, and eating and drinking places. Wholesale trade edged up slightly. Local government reflected additional workers hired by the public schools as the autumn semester moved further along. In services, the opening of the Fair Grounds racing season brought a substantial increase that was almost offset by decreases in private health services, business services, and the hotel-motel industry. Mining eked out a small gain as the oil and gas industry made preparations for a higher level of work in coming months. Less favorably, construction made downward adjustments necessitated by winter weather conditions. Water transportation fluctuated downward, although remaining on a level higher than those of several recent previous months. Finance, insurance, and real estate showed no significant change. Over the year, nonmanufacturing employment is down by 1,500.

New Orleans area production workers earned an average \$363.78 a week in December, \$4.20 more than last month. Average weekly hours dropped 18 minutes which was more than offset by the rise in average hourly earnings of \$0.18. Compared to one year ago, average weekly earnings are down \$20.02.

Estimated unemployment in December moved down to 47,000, a level 5,100 below November. Seasonal factors were mostly responsible. Current joblessness accounts for 8.9 percent of the labor force compared to 9.8 percent in November and 10.0 percent in December of last year. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totalled 13,163. About 43.0 percent of the claimants were non-white; approximately 28.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make downward adjustments following the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will show the effects of winter weather conditions. Unemployment will probably increase as employment decreases.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983**	Dec. 1982**	Net Change From Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	147.5	147.1	146.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.3
MANUFACTURING	24.4	24.3	23.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Durable Goods	18.5	18.4	17.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Lumber and Wood Products	1.5	1.6	1.3	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Metals and Machinery	10.8	10.7	11.8	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	4.0	3.9	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.8	6.8	8.1	0	- 1.3
Other Durable Goods	6.2	6.1	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.0
Nondurable Good	5.9	5.9	6.0	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.7	0	- 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	123.1	122.8	122.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Mining	7.3	7.2	7.7	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Construction	7.6	8.0	7.6	- 0.4	0
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	8.9	8.7	9.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	34.7	34.0	34.7	+ 0.7	0
Wholesale Trade	8.7	8.5	9.0	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Retail Trade	26.0	25.5	25.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	7.9	8.0	7.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Services	30.2	30.5	30.2	- 0.3	0
Government	26.5	26.4	25.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**	Dec. '83*	Nov. '83**	Dec. '82**
ALL MANUFACTURING	\$407.36	\$382.00	\$332.20	40.9	40.0	39.5	\$9.96	\$9.55	\$8.41
Lumber and Wood Products	192.85	218.67	209.93	35.0	37.0	38.1	5.51	5.91	5.51
Metals and Machinery	413.42	374.74	409.36	42.1	40.6	41.1	9.82	9.23	9.96
Food and Kindred Products	197.49	191.91	199.58	31.7	32.2	34.0	6.23	5.96	5.87
Printing and Publishing	236.04	230.04	236.05	30.3	28.9	33.2	7.79	7.96	7.11
Petroleum and Coal Products	619.13	521.86	457.10	50.5	45.3	43.7	12.26	11.52	10.46

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 18,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport Area increased to 147,500, up from the revised November estimate of 147,100. A slight increase in total employment occurred in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing during the past month.

Total manufacturing employment increased during the past month. The current estimate of 24,400 is 100 more than the revised November estimate of 24,300.

Nonmanufacturing employment had an overall gain of 300. The largest gain during the past month occurred in trade, up 700 from the revised November figure, and equals the December 1982 estimate. During the past month there were small increases in mining, transportation and public utilities and government, but losses were experienced in construction, finance, insurance and real estate and services employment.

The Shreveport area has an estimated 18,400 production workers with average weekly earnings of \$407.36, up from \$382.00 last month and \$332.20 for December 1982. Average weekly hours rose from 40.0 last month to 40.9. Average hourly earnings rose from \$9.55 to \$9.96.

The Shreveport area has a civilian labor force of 167,200, comprising 151,000 employed and 16,200 unemployed. The current unemployment rate is 9.7 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for last month and 12.5 percent for December, 1982.

No significant employment or unemployment changes are expected during the next month. A gradual upward trend in employment should continue. Unemployment will likely remain near the present level.